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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

Jul 10

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 27 MAY 1949

SUBJECT Maneuvers in the Parchim Area

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NO. OF PAGES 2

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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. On the morning of 22 March 1949 the following vehicles left Parchim:

- 25X1 a. Trucks: 200-250. Many of these were Dodge and Ford types, with
25X1 wooden bodywork [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 b. Scout cars (Panzerspähwagen): 18-20. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 c. About 50 jeeps containing officers and men.
- 25X1 d. Motorcycles with sidecars: 50-60. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 e. About 20 three-axle signal vehicles, wooden bodywork, 3 m. antennae.
25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 f. About 12-15 trucks, three axles, armored sides, armed with one or with two
25X1 2 cm. antiaircraft machine guns. Some of these also carried two light
25X1 machine guns. Six men to a crew. [redacted]
- 25X1 g. Eleven truck borne field kitchens [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 h. Six three-axle ambulances [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 i. Two private cars (Horch and Mercedes) carrying officers. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]

2. No tanks, artillery or anti-tank guns were with this column.

3. Nearly all the trucks contained young troops (apparently 18-24 years old) and predominately European Russians. About 80% of these troops wore blue overalls over their uniforms. Those not wearing overalls showed black shoulder boards. Officers wore black shoulder boards with small metal tank insignia and were mostly captains and below. One colonel and three staff officers were in the Horch car.

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- 2 -

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4. Weapons were generally submachine guns with box or drum type magazines. The men were also equipped with spades, blankets, bread-bags, etc. They wore boots or shoes with puttees (Wickelgamaschen). Their uniforms were of good material and clean.
5. The main route followed was from Parchim to Ruest, north through Herzberg and Mestlin. Columns branched off to Mühlenhof, Techentin, Golberg, Below, and Dobbertin. A small force passed through Sternberg in the Güstrow direction.
6. At 1900 hrs. movement ceased and camps were pitched:
 - a) In the Mühlenhof Forest, west of Mühlenhof.
 - b) Around Augzin.
 - c) 1 km. north of Below.
 - d) Around Hofhagen.
 - e) H.Q. was at Ruest and the inn and village were evacuated for it.
7. The men camped in the open around camp fires or in their vehicles. The officers had five large four-sided tents at Augzin and ten at Below.
8. Security measures included two lines of sentries around the camps and two lines around Ruest, together with two sentries outside the inn. Troops were confined to their camps. All civilians had to have their papers checked.
9. On 23 March there was lively jeep and motorcycle traffic between the camps. In the afternoon telephone lines were laid between the camps on the ground and on poles. Signal vehicles were observed at each camp.
10. On 24 March there was no movement other than motorcycle despatch riders.
11. On 25 March the officers conferred at Ruest for about four hours. The village was out of bounds to civilians all day.
12. On 26 March Augzin, Mühlenhof, and Below camps were moved northwards in the directions of Altemühle, Kläden, and the Dobbertiner Forest.
13. On 27, 28, and 29 March there were no troop movements and the officers went hunting.
14. Early in the morning of 30 March six SP guns, with five bogie wheels and auxiliary gasoline tanks fixed to the sides, left the cavalry barracks at Parchim and moved in the direction of Ludwigslust. Caliber of the guns appeared to be 122 mm. Around mid-day tank firing could be heard from this direction, probably taking place near Grabow.
15. No aerial activity had been observed in the maneuver area up to 30 March. No attempt was made to hide the vehicles under the trees, although it could easily have been done.
16. A few days before the start of the maneuver first-class roads such as the road Parchim - Sternberg were covered with a thick layer of gravel. The forest trails being used were generally without firm foundations and were consequently useable only in dry weather.
17. Discipline appeared good: all the camps were extremely clean.

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